

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a user with ~~comprehensive~~ search results in response to queries entered by the user ~~over a computer network~~, comprising:
 - a) providing ~~access to a computer network associated with~~ a plurality of electronic files containing information and a metadata database comprising identifying data for selectively accessing the electronic files;
 - b) prompting a user to enter a query;
 - c) identifying key terms contained in the query;
 - d) creating an expanded query to include additional terms ~~pre-determined to be~~ related to the key terms in the query, with the additional terms including at least one term that is not synonymous with any identified key term;
 - e) identifying information that includes at least one of the terms in the expanded query;
 - f) prompting the user to select at least one item of information identified as including at least one of the terms in the expanded query; and
 - g) accessing an electronic file that contains the information selected by the user.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 comprising ~~the additional steps of:~~
 - a) providing a vocabulary bridge having electronic files including groups of terms for expanding a query entered by the user;
 - b) comparing key terms entered by the user as part of the query to the electronic files; and
 - c) adding to the query all terms in at least one group that contains at least one of the key terms to provide an expanded query containing both entered terms and unentered terms.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the electronic files include dictionaries, thesauri, and authority files.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein all of the terms contained within each individual group of terms are pre-determined to be related to each other.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the query is expanded to include a biological sequence of at least one term contained in the query.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the query is expanded to include an identifier identifying a biological sequence of at least one term contained in the query.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the query is expanded to include at least one linguistical translation of at least one term contained in the query.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the query is expanded to include at least one term associated with at least one term contained in the query.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of electronic files are all related to a preselected subject.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the preselected subject is biology.
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 comprising ~~the additional step of~~ assigning identifying information to the user to enable the user to subsequently access and manipulate the query and the selected information.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 comprising ~~the additional step of~~ displaying to the user a synopsis of information identified as including at least one of the terms in the expanded query.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of enabling a user using a computer network to obtain ~~comprehensive~~ search results, comprising:
- a) accessing a computer network associated with a plurality of electronic files containing information and a metadata database comprising identifying data for selectively accessing the electronic files;
 - b) identifying key terms contained in a query entered by a user over the computer network;
 - c) creating an expanded query to include additional terms associated with the key terms, with the additional terms including at least one term that is not synonymous with any identified key term;
 - d) identifying information identified by at least one of the terms in the expanded query;
 - e) enabling the user to select at least one item of information identified by at least one of the terms in the expanded query; and
 - f) accessing an electronic file that contains the information selected by the user.
14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the plurality of electronic files include audio elements capable of being transmitted over a computer network.
15. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the plurality of electronic files include video elements capable of being transmitted over a computer network.
16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 comprising ~~the additional steps of~~:
- a) providing a vocabulary bridge having electronic files including groups of terms for expanding a query entered by the user;
 - b) comparing key terms entered by the user as part of the query to the electronic files; and
 - c) adding to the query all terms in at least one group that contains at least one of the key terms to provide an expanded query containing both entered terms and unentered terms.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the electronic files include dictionaries, thesauri, and authority files.
18. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein all of the terms contained within each individual group of terms are pre-determined to be related to each other.
19. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the query is expanded to include a biological sequence of at least one term contained in the query.
20. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the query is expanded to include an identifier identifying a biological sequence of at least one term contained in the query.
21. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the query is expanded to include at least one linguistical translation of at least one term contained in the query.
22. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the query is expanded to include at least one term that has been pre-determined to be related to at least one term contained in the query.
23. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the plurality of electronic files are all related to a preselected subject.
24. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the preselected subject is biology.
25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 comprising ~~the additional step of~~ assigning identifying information to the user to enable the user to subsequently access and manipulate the query and the selected information.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 comprising ~~the additional step~~ displaying to the user a synopsis of information identified by at least one of the terms in the expanded query.
27. (Currently Amended) A system for providing users with ~~comprehensive~~ search results in response to a query entered by the user, comprising:
- a) an electronically accessible computer network including at least one server for providing access to information available through the computer network; and
 - b) the computer network being associated with
 - a plurality of electronic files containing information;
 - a metadata database for accessing the electronic files; and
 - a vocabulary bridge for expanding a query entered by ~~user~~ a user to define an expanded query, with the query including one or more user-entered key terms and the expanded query including at least one non-user-entered term that is not synonymous with any of the user-entered key terms.
28. (Original) A system as in claim 27 wherein the vocabulary bridge comprises electronic files that include groups of terms for expanding a query entered by a user by;
- a) comparing key terms entered by the user as part of the query to the electronic files; and
 - b) adding to the query all terms in at least one group that contains at least one of the key terms to provide an expanded query containing both entered terms and unentered terms.
29. (Original) A system as in claim 28 wherein the electronic files include dictionaries, thesauri, and authority files.
30. (Original) A system as in claim 29 wherein the authority files include groups of related terms for expanding a query entered by a user to include unentered terms relevant to entered terms.

31. (Currently Amended) A system as in~~The system of~~ claim 28 wherein all of the terms contained within each individual group of terms are pre-determined to be related to each other.
32. (Original) A system as in claim 27 wherein the computer network is accessed using a personal computer.
33. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the expanded query includes one or more first non-user-input terms based on one or more of the key terms and one or more second non-user-input terms based on one or more of the first non-user-input terms.
34. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the expanded query includes one or more first non-user-input terms based on one or more of the key terms, with one or more of the first non-user-input terms having a subject-matter-relationship with at least one of the key terms.
35. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein identifying information that includes at least one of the terms in the expanded query includes:
presenting search results identifying a plurality of files having a plurality of file types;
wherein presenting the search results includes displaying at least a portion of the results within a graphical user interface having a plurality of user-selectable controls, with each control associated with a corresponding different file type and selectable to restrict display to a portion of the results having the corresponding different file type.
36. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein all terms in the one group are related to a predetermined subject matter.
37. (New) A system as in claim 27 wherein the vocabulary bridge comprises means for expanding a query entered by a user.

38. (New) The system as in claim 27, wherein the vocabulary bridge expands the query to include one or more first non-user-input terms based on one or more of the key terms and one or more second non-user-input terms based on one or more of the first non-user-input terms.
39. (New) A method comprising:
automatically searching at least one database based on a user-defined query that includes one or more key user-input terms; and
presenting search results based on the user-defined query, with the results identifying a plurality of files, with one or more of the files identified based on at least one non-user-input term that is not synonymous with any of the key user-input-terms.
40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the plurality of files includes one or more files identified based on at least one other non-user-input term based on the one non-user-input term.
41. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the one non-user-input term is:
a misspelled version of one of the user-input terms;
a linguistic variation of one of the user-input terms; or
related by subject matter classification to at least one of the user-input terms.
42. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the one non-user-input term and at least one key user-input term have a causal semantic relationship.
43. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the one non-user input term identifies a first biological condition caused by a second biological condition identified by the one of the user-input terms.
44. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the one of the first non-user input terms identifies at least one cause of an effect identified by the one of the user-input terms.

45. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein presenting the search results includes presenting information regarding similarity or differences regarding information in a file including one of the user-input terms and information in a file including the one non-user-input term.
46. (New) The method of claim 39:
wherein the search results include a plurality of file types; and
wherein presenting the search results includes displaying at least a portion of the results in with a graphical user interface having a plurality of user-selectable controls, with each control associated with a corresponding different file type and selectable to restrict display to a portion of the results having the corresponding different file type.
47. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the plurality of file types includes a map type or a genomics type, and the plurality of user-selectable controls includes a control for restricting display of results to files of the map type and a control for restricting display of results to files of the genomics type.
48. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the plurality of file types includes a genomics type and a non-genomics type, and the plurality of user-selectable controls includes a control for restricting display of results to files of the genomics type.
49. (New) A method comprising:
defining a query based on one or more user-input key terms and one or more first non-user-input terms, with the non-user-input terms including at least one term that is not synonymous with any user-input key term; and
further defining the query to include one or more second non-user-input terms, with one or more of the second non-user-input terms based on one or more of the first non-user-input terms.

50. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein defining a query based on one or more user-input key terms and one or more first non-user-input terms, comprises receiving user-input terms and identifying key user-input terms by eliminating extraneous terms and punctuation from the user-input terms.
51. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein each of the first non-user-input terms has a subject-matter-relationship with at least one of the key user-input terms.
52. (New) The method of claim 49, further comprising:
presenting search results identifying a plurality of files having a plurality of file types;
wherein presenting the search results includes displaying at least a portion of the results
within a graphical user interface having a plurality of user-selectable controls,
with each control associated with a corresponding different file type and
selectable to restrict display to a portion of the results having the corresponding
different file type.
53. (New) A method comprising:
defining a query based on one or more user-input terms and one or more first non-user-input terms; and
further defining the query to include one or more second non-user-input terms, with one
or more of the second non-user-input terms based on one or more of the first non-user-input terms.
54. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein each user-input terms on which the query is based is a key term.
55. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein one or more of the first or second non-user-input terms is not synonymous with any of the user-input terms.

56. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein the one or more first non-user-input terms include:
at least one term that is a misspelled version of one of the user-input terms;
at least one term that is a linguistic variation of one of the user-input terms; and
at least one term that is related by subject matter classification of one of the user-input terms.
57. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein at least one of the first non-user-input terms and at least one of the user-input terms have a causal semantic relationship.
58. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the one of the first non-user input terms identifies a first biological condition caused by a second biological condition identified by the one of the user-input terms.
59. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the one of the first non-user input terms identifies at least one cause of an effect identified by the one of the user-input terms.
60. (New) A graphical user interface for an online search system, comprising: a plurality of user-selectable controls, including at least one control for submitting a query and a plurality of result controls for controlling display of search results associated with the query, with each result control associated with a corresponding different file type and selectable to restrict display of search results to its corresponding different file type.
61. (New) The graphical user interface of claim 60, wherein the plurality of file types includes a map type or a genomics type, and the plurality of result controls includes a control for restricting display of results to files of the map type and a control for restricting display of results to files of the genomics type.

62. (New) The graphical user interface of claim 60, wherein the plurality of file types includes a genomics type and a non-genomics type, and the plurality of user-selectable controls includes a control for restricting display of results to files of the genomics type.
63. (New) The graphical user interface of claim 60, wherein the plurality of file types includes a map type, a multimedia type, a genomic type, and a journal type; and the plurality of result controls includes a control for restricting display of results to files of the map type, a multimedia type, a genomic type, and a journal type.
64. (New) The graphical user interface of claim 60, further comprising a results control for causing display of a plurality of file types within the search results.
65. (New) The graphical user interface of claim 64, wherein the plurality of file types includes a genomic type and a journal type.
66. (New) The graphical user interface of claim 60, wherein the interface is stored on a server for distribution to at least one access device.